

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

NSA review completed

27 JUL 1983

POLICY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, INTERAGENCY GROUP/
COUNTERMEASURESSUBJECT: Comments on NSA Proposal for an NSDD on Cryptographic
Security

At the last plenary session of the IG/CM, members were asked to provide written comments on the NSA proposal for an NSDD on the subject of cryptographic security.

It had been our understanding that NSA had favored an NSDD on this subject largely because it believed that departments and agencies, as a practical manner, would implement a polygraph requirement (part of its proposed program) only if it stemmed from a document issued at the level of an NSDD.

As far as DoD is concerned, however, use of the polygraph as a condition of access to cryptographic information has been rendered moot, for the time being, by recent Senate action on the FY 84 DoD authorization bill, which placed a moratorium on expanded use of the polygraph in DoD until 15 April 1984. Accordingly, we could not concur with establishing such a requirement in an NSDD even if it were feasible to do so.

Given this, we believe it preferable for the NSA proposal -- without the polygraph requirement -- to be cast in a form other than an NSDD and be referred to the National Communications Security Committee (NCSC) for further consideration. We believe further assessment is needed of the basic issue: is the security derived from reinstituting such a program, without the polygraph, worth the administrative costs entailed. It appears to us that the NCSC rather than the IG/CM is in a better position to evaluate this particular issue.

L. Britt Snider
Acting Director
Counterintelligence & Security Policy

On file OSD release instructions
apply.

ATTACHMENT 2